

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 386, 389

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Chambers, I have a little bit different take on how you go about approaching the discrimination based on race or gender in that I think as the Legislature, as the body that makes the laws that the state follows, should probably take a more up-front approach rather than focusing simply on some small part of the university budget. Why, why haven't you taken a more grandiose approach or more decisive approach and just, just tell them that you don't want these things to happen by passing, passing a bill or adding an amendment on to a bill. I mean, why...why dance around and say, well, we should do some more studies and talk about...we have these information here that clearly shows that there's...statistically we have a small number of female professors or minority professors. Why mince words, why dance around, why do studies, why nip at their ankles when you can tell...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Go for the throat.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...them exactly what you should do?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Abboud, what this shows is that I'm the soul of reason, accommodation, and forgiveness. I'm willing to give the opportunity to the miscreant to come clean or stay away dirty. With the material, with the language we put into LB 389, we let the university be on notice that no longer are they dealing with professors and others who can be retaliated against by the university, but the Legislature now is stepping in. Rather than jump in with both feet and splash all the water out of the pond we're going to do it in increments. Now I should think, from your position, my attempt to strike \$4.2 million from this project is as grandiose as you want to be, and you already said it's too rich for your blood. So I just don't want to kill the patient. I look at the university in that manner, and I think if we give them a very strong indication that the Legislature's going to move, which is another way of saying, Senator Chambers is going to do something, they will find a way to act. And if they don't, then next year you'll see me change from the lamb of God into the lion of Judah.